

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2969
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
MINOR FOREST PRODUCE TRADE
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that extreme exploitation of tribals is taking place in Madhya Pradesh with regard to the trade in minor forest produce and all the profits earned from minor forest produce are pocketed by a few middlemen;
- (b) if so, the steps the Union Government proposes to take to check the same;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide financial support to the State Governments for administrative set-up and also for building up alternative co-operative structure for removing exploitation in minor forest produce trade; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) According to the information available with this Ministry, the trading of minor forest produce in Madhya Pradesh, is controlled by the State through the State Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation, Minor Forest Produce Federation, Co-operative Societies, etc., and the major share of net revenue goes back to the people, who are involved in collection of minor forest produce. However, with the aim of strengthening the tribal economy and in conformity with the National Common Minimum Programme, the Union Government has urged all the States/Union Territories (UTs) including Madhya Pradesh during State Forest Ministers' conference on 05-08-2004, to bring out legislation for conferring ownership rights on tribals and other forest dwellers in respect of minor forest produce. Subsequently, the Ministry has also requested all the States/UTs vide its letter dated 11-8-2004 and 01-09-2004 to expedite action for said legislation.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.